REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-13, 16-22, 26, 27-29, 31, 32, 34-36 have been amended. Thus, Claims 1-40 are currently pending. By these amendments, no new matter has been introduced into the claims.

Claim Objections:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for pointing out the various defects. Applicant thoroughly reviewed the claims and amended all claims to which the Examiner objected to and corrected all deficiencies. All amendments have been made to clarify the claims, in particular, the relationship of certain claim elements. No amendment has been made to overcome any prior art rejection because Applicant believes that the prior art does not anticipate the present invention as will be explained below.

Rejection according to 35 USC §102:

On the merits, claims 1, 2, 5, 14-16, 20-22, 27, 33, and 37-40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,611,057 (Pecone et al.). The Examiner stated that Pecone teaches all the limitations of independent claims 1, 20, and 27. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The present invention is related to a specific type of socket as used in computer systems to provide connection for adapter or extension cards with one or more bus systems which are usually provided on the motherboard of a computer system. Because some bus systems are configurable, certain configurations may apply to such a specific bus system. However, a user often does not know what type of configuration is currently implemented. For

example, a PCI bus can operate with different bus speeds. The PCI bus configures itself to the respective adapter/extension cards which are plugged into the system. To this end, the bus is usually adapted to the slowest card which is inserted. Thus, a user who is not familiar with the type of cards he inserted will, for example, not know to which speed/configuration the bus will be set if he inserts a specific card. Therefore, the performance of the respective bus system can be significantly reduced. In particular, if a computer system comprises multiple independent bus systems it would be advantageous to know at which configuration each bus system operates to put fast operating cards in one bus system and the slower cards in the other bus system.

To this end, the present invention provides for a computer bus socket with an integrated indicator. The indicator can be one or more LEDs, an LCD, or an alpha-numeric display. A user will, thus, immediately know in what configuration the respective bus, to which a respective bus socket provides the connection, is set. Once the card is inserted the indicator which is integrated into the socket will show the changes in the operation mode of the associated bus.

Pecone on the contrary, discloses a bus system with bus sockets according to the prior art. See Fig. 1 of the present application and Fig. 4 and 5 of Pecone. The Examiner stated in particular that Pecone teaches *"an indicator for said bus indicating said configuration, wherein said indicator is integrated in said socket"* in col. 5, lines 49-55. Applicant respectfully disagrees. The respective cited passage reads:

"In this embodiment, the CPU on the adapter card 22 preferably stores one or more bits indicating whether the daughter card 24 is connected as well as bits indicating whether SCSI channels are routed eternally[sic] and whether SCSI devices are connected to the daughter card 24."

This passage explains some functionality of a card inserted into a bus system. In particular certain bits, which are not necessarily accessible, let alone displayed, are stored within a central processing unit. However, no information about the bus system is either displayed or indicated to a user. Moreover, the passage refers to the adapter card and not to a bus socket of a computer bus system. The limitation of all independent claims that an indicator is integrated into the bus socket is neither disclosed nor suggested. The claims of the present invention use the term indicator which according to the invention can be, for example, an LED, LCD, or other alpha-numeric display. Applicant believes that this term is sufficiently clear to a person skilled in the art. None of the prior art discloses or suggests to integrate indicator means for displaying an operation mode of a computer bus system into a bus socket of a computer system.

The dependent claims include all the limitations of the respective independent claims and are therefore patentable at least to the extent of the respective independent claims. However, these claims include further limitations neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art.

As per claim 5, Pecone does not teach the use of an indicator integrated into the bus socket. Neither does Pecone disclose a control unit which is integrated into the bus socket. On the contrary, any type of control unit disclosed by Pecone is placed on one of the adapter cards.

As per claim 16, the Examiner cited col. 4, line 65- col. 5 line 2. This passage refers to Figs. 1A and 1B of Pecone which describe adapter cards. Any type of status LEDs which are implemented on such an adapter card is used to display the operation mode of the adapter card but not of the bus system the card is connected to. Furthermore, this passage is completely silent with respect to a bus socket to which the present invention refers to.

All other rejections in the above identified office action are based on citations of Pecone which merely describe specific functionality of adapter cards. Therefore, these citations do neither anticipate the present invention or render it obvious. As stated above, Pecone does neither disclose or suggest any type of indicator or display means integrated in a bus socket which allow a user to readily identify the operation mode of a bus system.

CONCLUSION

The application as defined in the pending claims is patentable under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 in view of the cited prior art. Therefore, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of all pending claims.

Applicants do not believe that any other fees are due at this time; however, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason relating to this document, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct the fees from Deposit Account No. 02-0383, *(formerly Baker & Botts, L.L.P.,)* Order Number 016295.0681.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

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